REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated May 4, 2005.

Claims 1-7, 10, 13 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971). Independent claims 1, 13 and 20-23 have been amended to more particularly point out aspects of embodiments of the present invention that are distinguishable from the teachings of Owa et al.

The examiner cites Owa et al as teaching a modifying print processor because the term "print processor" is interpreted broadly as practically any component, software or hardware, that processes something related to printing. The examiner cites Owa (col, 9, lines 50-60) as disclosing this element. At this location, Owa et al teach a complex printer driver performing ordinary printer driver conversion functions. Accordingly, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13 and 20-23 to distinguish from the driver function disclosed in Owa.

Claims 1, 13 and 20-23 have been amended to comprise elements that describe modification with a "non-driver" print processor wherein the modification occurs "after" driver processing. These claims are now believed to be patentable over the cited prior art.
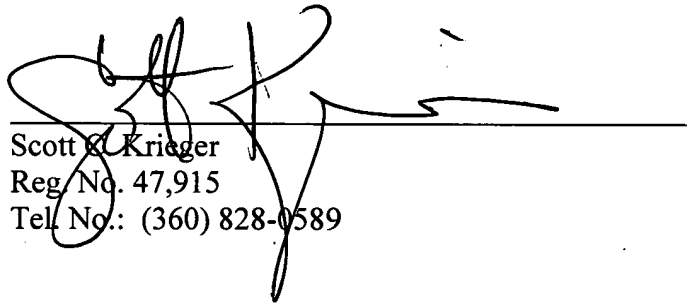
Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971) as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Shimada (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,136). Each of these claims is dependent on claim 1 or 13 and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above. Regardless of any

copy-splitting disclosure in Shimada, these claims are patentable by virtue of their non-driver print processor elements that perform modification after printer driver conversion.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Owa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Onuma (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,669). Each of these claims is dependent on claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above. Regardless of any disclosure of a use of a printer-ready file in Onuma, these claims are patentable by virtue of their non-driver print processor elements that perform modification after printer driver conversion.

Accordingly, these claims are patentable, as amended, and the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner allow these claims in their current form.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott K. Krieger
Reg. No. 47,915
Tel. No.: (360) 828-0589